



Maryland and Delaware

Media Summary

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2005 Forecast of Corn and Soybean Production Released by USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released its first projections for 2005 corn and soybean production. The survey, based on August 1 crop conditions, indicates production of both crops will be down in Maryland and Delaware from 2004, due to a decrease in acres harvested and moderate yields.

Maryland: Growers expect to harvest 400,000 acres of **corn** for grain this year, down from 425,000 acres in 2004. The crop is expected to yield an average 135 bushels per acre (down from 153 bushels per acre last year), for a total production of 54 million bushels. This is 11 million bushels less than corn produced in 2004. **Soybean** yield is forecast at 39 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels per acre from 2004. With 455,000 acres of soybeans expected to be harvested, production is estimated at 17.7 million bushels. This compares with 21.3 million bushels produced in 2004. Small grain growers are reporting a very good year. The average yield for **wheat** is estimated at 65 bushels per acre, second only to the record yield of 66 bushels per acre set in 2002. With 140,000 acres harvested, production is estimated at 9.1 million bushels. **Barley** yields are also excellent, at 81 bushels per acre. This is above last year's average yield of 73 bushels per acre and the five-year average of 74 bushels per acre. Total production of barley is estimated at 3.4 million bushels. Maryland **apple** production is forecast to drop 12 percent from 2004 to 30 million pounds.

Delaware: **Corn** for grain is expected to yield 137 bushels per acre in 2005, down from the 152 bushels per acre produced in 2004. With 150,000 acres expected to be harvested, production is estimated at 20.6 million bushels. **Soybeans** are expected to yield 38 bushels per acre this year, down 4 bushels per acre from 2004. Growers expect to harvest 178,000 acres of soybeans (as compared to 208,000 acres in 2004), for a total production of 6.8 million bushels. This is 23 percent below the 8.7 million bushels produced in 2004. Delaware small grain producers had an excellent crop. **Wheat** yield is estimated at 65 bushels per acre and **barley** yield at 80 bushels per acre. Wheat production is up 14 percent from 2004 at 3.1 million bushels and barley production, at 2.2 million bushels, is up 8 percent from last year.

United States: **Corn** production is forecast at 10.3 billion bushels, down 12 percent from last year but 3 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 139.2 bushels per acre, down 21.2 bushels from the record high last year. With the exception of Michigan, forecast yields are lower in all of the Corn Belt States as warm, dry weather throughout the growing season depleted soil moisture levels and stressed the crop. Across the U.S., yields are forecast lower than last year in 29 of the 33 published corn States. The largest decreases occurred in Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. Farmers expect to harvest 74.4 million acres of corn for grain, unchanged from June but up 1 percent from 2004.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.79 billion bushels, down 11 percent from 2004 but up 14 percent from 2003. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 38.7 bushels per acre, down 3.8 bushels from the record high U.S. yield set last year. Yields are lower than 2004 across most of the country, with the exceptions being Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. Area for harvest, at 72.2 million acres, has declined slightly from June and is down 2 percent from 2004.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2004 AND 2005

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Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Maryland		1,000 Acres						1,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	490	470	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	425	400	153	135	65,025	54,000
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	20	----	1,200	----
Soybeans	BU	500	460	495	455	43	39	21,285	17,745
Winter Wheat	BU	160	150	145	140	59	65	8,555	9,100
Barley	BU	42	46	39	42	73	81	2,847	3,402
All Hay	TON	----	----	215	200	2.65	----	570	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	40	40	3.30	----	132	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	175	160	2.50	----	438	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	260	260	1,196	1,196
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	4.1	4.2
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	34,100	30,000
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	160	160	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	153	150	152	137	23,256	20,550
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6	----	17	----	102	----
Soybeans	BU	210	180	208	178	42	38	8,736	6,764
Winter Wheat	BU	50	50	47	48	58	65	2,726	3,120
Barley	BU	29	29	26	28	80	80	2,080	2,240
All Hay	TON	----	----	14	15	2.93	----	41	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	6	6	3.90	----	23	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	8	9	2.30	----	18	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.3	2.7	3.1	2.6	260	260	806	676
United States		1,000,000							
Corn ¹	ACR	80,930	81,592	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	73,632	74,368	160	139	11,807	10,350
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,103	----	18	----	107	----
Soybeans	BU	75,208	73,303	73,958	72,184	43	39	3,141	2,791
Wheat, Winter	BU	43,350	41,408	34,462	34,271	44	44	1,499	1,521
Barley	BU	4,527	3,970	4,021	3,471	69	70	279	243
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,916	61,723	2.55	----	158	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.34	75	74
Other Hay	TON	----	----	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	82	76
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	58.5	51.1	54.0	49.1	341	331	18	16
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.3	1.2
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	10,420	9,837

¹Acres planted is for all purposes.